

# Corporation for National and Community Service

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**9.28.11**

## **DISASTER SERVICES UPDATE**

*Friends and Partners,*

*Our hearts continue to go out to the many that have been affected by the spring storms, tornados, wildfires, flooding and most recently throughout the Northeast, Hurricane /Tropical Storm Irene. Our federal and nonprofit partners including FEMA, the State Service Commissions, Hands On, National VOAD members, all of our grantees and the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) have extraordinary disaster response capabilities and have been working tirelessly for many, many, months. I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize the dedication and commitment demonstrated by these extraordinary groups.*

*If you would like to learn more about you can help visit [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov) or <http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/howtohelp.shtm> If you would like to learn more about how to prepare your family and or community please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).*

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## **UPDATE TROPICAL STORM LEE**

*Tropical Storm Lee was the twelfth named storm and thirteenth system overall of the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season, developing from a broad tropical disturbance over the Gulf on September 1. It was designated as Tropical Storm Lee the next day.*

*"In Pennsylvania, Tropical Storm Lee is turning out to be much worse than Irene, dropping more rain in some areas than Agnes did in 1972". Bernard Brown, CNCS State Director, PA*

## **UPDATE Senior Corps:**

### **Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)**

### **Foster Grandparents Program (FGP)**

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Schuylkill County is mobilizing volunteers to staff the Office of Senior Services table at the Disaster Recovery Center in Pine Grove, PA. Two additional RSVP participants are assisting the American red Cross with shelter operations at three different sites throughout the county.

Lackawanna County (Scranton):

The flooding along the Susquehanna has been severe and staff of our RSVP sponsor, the Voluntary Action Center of Northeast Pennsylvania, which also serves as the local volunteer center, has been involved in coordinating the general volunteer response (reporting difficulty working with the Red Cross). A few RSVP volunteers are involved in the coordination effort at the VAC office, and about 40 have been referred so far to other response activities.

Luzerne/Wyoming Counties (Wilkes-Barre area):

The Foster Grandparents Director for Luzerne/Wyoming Counties reports that power only recently came back on in the Wilkes-Barre area. The dikes held in Wilkes-Barre, but apparently there was a lot of flooding in neighboring areas.

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Capital Region: Dauphin, Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Perry, Counties (Harrisburg area and surrounding rural areas)

Our RSVP grantee reports a lot of flooding in the Susquehanna Valley and along tributaries. The RSVP staff has been involved in the response, and volunteers will be involved in coordinating (and working on) recovery and rebuilding.

Beaver County (north of Pittsburgh) the RSVP sponsor reports that volunteers (I'm still working on finding out exactly how many) have been involved in cleaning up after flooding in Aliquippa on August 19th.

## **UPDATE AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region**

A team of seven NCCC members are expected to arrive at the Joint Field Office in Pennsylvania on 9.29.11. The team will be serving in the Bloomsburg area. A second team of NCCC members is expected to arrive on the ground next week.

## **TEXAS WILDFIRES**

*On Sept 5 a wildfire raced through rain-starved farm and rangeland in Central Texas, causing an evacuation of almost 5,000 residents and destroying 500 homes.*

Central Texas

*Washington Conservation*

*American Youthworks*

Under the authority of a FEMA Mission Assignment two AmeriCorps grantee programs 30 members deployed to Austin, Texas where they are coordinating a Volunteer Reception Center and facilitate donations management.

Deployment Dates Sept 19 – October 30

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## **HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM IRENE**

*August 20-August 29<sup>th</sup> Hurricane Irene wound up by most estimates as one of the top ten most destructive and deadly hurricanes to hit the United States since 1980. While ultimately not as powerful as many had predicted, the storm still killed at least 27 people along its path from the Caribbean to the eastern seaboard. Transportation was shut down all along the east coast, stranding residents and tourists in shelters, airports, and train stations. More than 5.8 million customers lost electricity, thousands of flights were cancelled, flooding washed out roads and destroyed homes, and evacuation orders were issued for hundreds of thousands. Gathered here are pictures from the Hurricane's path. -- Lane Turner*

**Connecticut**

*AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

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National Service Disaster Brief

[www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)

9.28.11 3:30 pm

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A team of 7 NCCC members will deploy on September 7, 2011 to Middletown, CT under the authority of a FEMA Mission Assignment to assist in operations post-Hurricane Irene. Members will be responsible for supporting the capacity of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, coordinating volunteers, and supporting donations management.

## **Massachusetts**

*Homeland security Corps*, an AmeriCorps State program, deployed one member to support the American Red Cross in conducting damage assessments throughout Massachusetts.

### *AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

Two NCCC Teams (approximately 20 members) deployed to assist the city of Springfield with long term recovery in the Springfield area.

## **New Jersey**

### *AmeriCorps NCCC North Central Region*

Morristown and Tinton Falls, New Jersey

Deployment Dates: August 27 - September 17th

33 NCCC members deployed through the Cedar Rapids American Red Cross Chapter assisting with shelter operations throughout New Jersey. 15 members are working in Fairfield, NJ performing Mass Care. 17 members are working in Bergen County, NJ maintaining a shelter.

### *AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

Tinton Falls, NJ

30 NCCC Members deployed 9.1.11 in support of the Delmarva Chapter of the American Red Cross to support Tinton Falls Chapter operations.

### *AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

Trenton, NJ

2 NCCC members are scheduled to deploy 9.6.11 to Trenton, NJ, under the authority of a FEMA Mission Assignment, to assist in consolidating data from the 211 call system and supporting the state VOAD in the Joint Field Office (JFO).

### *Teach for America*

3 Teach for America Volunteers are supporting New Jersey Cares an affiliate of Hands on Network. Members are registering volunteers and processing calls.

*The state of New Jersey asks that you: "Please, do not collect or send food, water, clothing or household items unless you have a specific request and a delivery location. These items generally cannot be used in the midst of the disaster -- and it can be said that they create a second disaster. If you would like to assist, monetary donations to a non-profit of your choice is the best way to assist in a disaster."*

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## **New York**

### **UPDATE Volunteer Florida**

Volunteer Florida (State Service Commission) is supporting the New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) in response to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee through the deployment of Volunteer Florida's Director of Emergency Management on an two week mission, 9/16/11- 9/30/11. Support duties include staffing the SEMO Donations Management Group; coordinating donations management, deployment of NCCC teams under NY Mission Assignments, and volunteer and donation efforts with FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons.

#### *AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

7 NCCC members deployed 9.23.11 to New York to partner with All Hands in Schoharie County, NY. The team will be on a two week assignment assisting in mucking and gutting operations.

#### *New York City*

*Homeland Security Corps*, an AmeriCorps State program, deployed one member to support the American Red Cross in conducting damage assessments in NYC.

#### *Binghamton, NY & Albany, NY*

##### *NCCC Southern Region*

44 NCCC Members from the NCCC Southern Region Campus arrived in New York City on 8/31/11 to assist the American Red Cross with shelter operations. The members are overseeing bulk distribution throughout New York State.

Members are assisting daily with volunteer coordination and orientation, sheltering service office assistance, mental health office assistance, shelter staffing (day and night shifts), answering phones, cooking and distributing food, warehousing (loading and unloading trucks and Emergency Response Vehicles(ERVs)), bulk distribution (delivering supplies and food to shelters, and ride-along in ERVs), logistics office assistance, transportation office assistance, information and technology assistance.

#### *Schenectady, NY*

On Thursday & Friday Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> AmeriCorps and Youthbuild volunteers from Northeast Parent & Child Society deployed to the Stockade area of Schenectady to help victims of Hurricane Irene clean up their homes. WTEN, Channel 10 was there to document the event and did a feature story about the staff and students who helped people to reorganize their lives. <http://www.wten.com/Global/category.asp?C=172705&autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=6213887&flvUri=&partnerclipid>

#### *White Plains, NY*

##### *AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

##### *White Plains, NY*

9 NCCC Members are scheduled to deploy 9.2.11 to White Plains, NY under the authority of a FEMA Mission Assignment. NCCC members will support the NY State VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) with volunteer coordination and donations management.

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## *NY State Service Commission: New Yorkers Volunteer*

In addition to the activation of the NCCC AmeriCorps Teams, please find information regarding the AmeriCorps\*State activity of five members in response to Hurricane Irene in New York State. I'll continue to update you as other members are activated. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 518-473-8882.

- Regan Miller and Liesl Schanz are assisting with Mass Care in the Red Cross Central New York Region, specifically in Oneida and Herkimer Counties.
- Naishah Hempfield is assisting with Mass Care in the Lower Hudson Valley where she will provide support to shelters in the region.
- Caitlin Foley is assisting with Partner Services in the Lower Hudson Valley where she will act as a government and community liaison.
- Elvis Hernandez is assisting with the disaster response efforts in the Northeastern NY Red Cross Region due to short staffing for the current response. Elvis will assist with Personnel Services as well as Logistics and Mass Care.

## **North Carolina**

### *Coastal Community Action*

A Coast Community Action member, whose Newport, NC community was flooded, served at shelters over the weekend. The shelter served over 150 people and 60 pets.

## **Pennsylvania**

### *AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

Two NCCC Staff members deployed under a FEMA Mission Assignment to the Joint Field Office (JFO) in Harrisburg, PA. They are on a MA and are working with the FEMA VAL to help assess the need for possible CNCS help (donations and volunteer management, warehousing, debris removal, mucking/gutting etc.) and then assist in the coordination of requesting needed CNCS assets.

### **Harrisburg**

#### *AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

Under the authority of a FEMA Mission Assignment two NCCC staff members will deploy to Pennsylvania to assist FEMA and the PA State Emergency Management Office is assessing damages and needs as a result of Tropical Storm Lee.

## **Rhode Island**

*Serve Rhode Island*, the RI Commission for National and Community Service, remains very active in Tropical Storm Irene response. Serve Rhode Island is the Point of Contact for coordinating out-of-state and faith-based volunteer groups coming to Rhode Island. 2-1-1 takes requests by homeowners for assistance with debris clean up, targeting services to those unable to afford services (i.e. low income, disabled, and elderly). Those requests are being forwarded to SRI who assigns the requests to the out-of-state volunteer teams. We are also recruiting from our Serve Corps Disaster Team, pre-registered and spontaneous volunteers to assist as pullers in the debris removal.

Volunteer Recruitment Efforts Include:

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- RI Department of Health - Food Inspectors
- Red Cross - prepping, cooking and serving food to those without power and for the 1 remaining shelter
- RIEMA - answering phones for surge capacity
- 2-1-1 - collecting requests for volunteer debris clean up, priority given to those with low income, disabilities and the elderly
- Brush Haulers for Clean Up - SRI is pre-registering volunteers for cleanup and has deployed 1 team to a home in Providence

*AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*  
Providence, RI

## **Rhode Island**

*Southern RI Volunteers (SRIV)*

A team of Southern RI volunteers operated a shelter in Narragansett. SRIV fully staffed the Narragansett RI shelter; 43 clients were provided shelter during TS Irene. Of those clients one individual was fully dependent upon oxygen; on our team we had an RN and the fire fighter assigned to our shelter was also EMS services. The shelter was open from 8 pm Saturday evening until late evening Sunday. Volunteers went in on Friday to pre-set up so that when the call to open came the shelter was ready from the outset.

*Blackstone Valley RSVP*

An RSVP Leader is overseeing sheltering and RSVP teams in Pawtucket and Central Falls.

*Eastbay RSVP/FGP*

RSVP and FGP volunteers are supporting sheltering operations in Bristol & East Providence.

*AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

Approximately 10 members deployed to Rhode Island on 9.20.11 to assist the VOAD with debris removal which requires chainsaw operators. All members of this team are chainsaw certified from a previous disaster deployment in the spring.

## **South Carolina**

*AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

*Carolina Low country American Red Cross RSVP*

An RSVP member was deployed to Richmond, VA to help with transportation and logistics in response to the hurricane. Additional RSVP volunteers will be mobilized as needed. Twenty-six Carolina Low country RSVP volunteers have been trained to respond as needed.

## **Vermont**

*AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

4 NCCC members deployed to Bristol, VT under the authority of a FEMA Mission Assignment to assist in operations post-Hurricane Irene. Members will be responsible for supporting the capacity of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, coordinating volunteers, and supporting donations management.

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## Virginia

*RSVP of the VA Peninsula*

Approximately 50 volunteers are working with faith-based organizations and Kiwanis to distribute water and work the phones.

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## ALABAMA TORNADOES

*Severe thunderstorms, winds and massive tornadoes moved through the South on April 27, 2011 and caused significant damage and loss of life.*

AmeriCorps NCCC Southern Region

Two teams (approximately 20 members) deployed to Habitat for Humanity in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa to assist in long term recovery efforts.

*AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

Two teams of AmeriCorps NCCC members deployed on September 6, 2011 to Alabama under the authority of a FEMA Mission Assignment. Members will be responsible for recovery operations as a result of the tornado that hit the area earlier this year.

## NEBRASKA FLOODING

*Spring 2011 flooding in the Missouri River caused by snowmelt and heavy rains prompted evacuations and displaced residents. Long term recovery efforts throughout the region continue.*

AmeriCorps NCCC North Central Region

7NCCC members deployed to Bellevue, Nebraska performing Levee Monitoring with the Papio Natural Resource District. This assignment is expected to last until September 9, 2011.

## NORTH DAKOTA FLOODING

AmeriCorps NCCC, Atlantic Region

On Sept 15, 10 NCCC members deployed through the American Red Cross Red Cross to Minot. Members are helping to support a shelter and work directly with clients who have been flooded out of their homes.

*Spring 2011 flooding in the Missouri River caused by snowmelt and heavy rains prompted evacuations and displaced residents. Long term recovery efforts throughout the region continue.*

16 NCCC members deployed to Minot, ND to serve with All Hands and Nechama. The members will focus on gutting and mucking homes impacted by 2011 flooding. The members will be on-site in Minot from September 7 – September 28.

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## NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CORPS

Irene Response

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- Three members have deployed from New Orleans, taking Emergency Response Vehicles to North Carolina and Virginia'
- All six members in Philadelphia are supporting response efforts there.
- One member from St. Louis is in Raleigh, NC working in logistics.

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## COMPLETED HURRICANE IRENE DEPLOYMENTS

### Delaware

*AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region Campus*

*Monday August 29*

COMPLETED 32 NCCC members have completed a mission supporting the American Red Cross Delmarva Chapter operating seven shelters throughout Delaware.

### Maryland

*AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

COMPLETE This shelter has been closed as of 8/28/11.

Approximately 6 NCCC Members partnered with the American Red Cross to open a shelter in Talbot, County Maryland.

### New Hampshire

*NCCC Atlantic Region*

Approximately 10 NCCC members are partnered with the NH DHHS Emergency Services and the NH American Red Cross assisting in locating and conducting site surveys on facilities that could be used in case of a disaster. This team was then activated to assist with shelter management in two – three shelters in and around Manchester, NH

*AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

A team of 8 NCCC members will deploy on September 7, 2011 to Conway, NH to support Volunteer New Hampshire's request to provide help to a community in Transvale Acres, NH recover from flooding. The team will primarily be involved in mucking and gutting operations.

### Rhode Island

*AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region*

A team of 7 AmeriCorps NCCC members deployed on September 2, 2011 to Providence, RI under the authority of a FEMA Mission Assignment to assist in operations post-Hurricane Irene. Members will be responsible for supporting the capacity of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, coordinating volunteers, and supporting donations management.

### Washington DC

FEMA's ESF-6\* partners are working in support of the National Recovery Coordination Center (NRCC) and are providing close coordination of ESF-6 activities. CNCS is currently staffing a desk in the FEMA NRCC Red Room.

*ESF– Emergency Support Functions. ESF's provide the structure for coordinating Federal interagency support during an emergency.*



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*ESF #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services Coordinates the delivery of Federal mass care, emergency assistance, housing, and human services when local, tribal, and state response and recovery needs exceed their capabilities.*

## RESOURCES

Google has partnered with FEMA's Ready.gov for National Preparedness Month to make information about how technology can be used prior to / during a disaster available to first responders and the public. Check out some of these innovative tools by exploring the links below.

- [National Preparedness Month landing page](#) with new case study videos
- [Updated Tools and Resources Page](#) with new case studies and templates
- [Get Tech Ready resource for the public with FEMA and ARC](#)
- [Blog post with stats on the internet and crises](#)
- [Campaign blog post](#)

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## SPOT LIGHT ON GEORGIA



### ***"First Saturday"***

*A Disaster Recovery Initiative of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism*



**Operation REACH  
AmeriCorps Program  
Director Darrell Grant of  
Atlanta delivers supplies to a  
disaster recovery center in  
Trenton, GA on the first  
Saturday after tornadoes  
struck Georgia in April, 2011.**

When devastating tornadoes swept through Georgia in April, 2011, officials at the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) worked quickly with the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) and several of Georgia's AmeriCorps programs to coordinate a day of volunteer service that would begin the recovery process for damaged communities. Twenty five AmeriCorps members from five programs responded on the first Saturday after the storms and deployed to five locations to coordinate volunteer efforts. The

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one-day, hastily organized effort was such a success that GEMA officials and GCSV had a light-bulb-flashing moment – why not organize a “first Saturday” disaster recovery initiative to prepare in advance for the next disaster? Georgia’s First Saturday Disaster Recovery initiative is designed to put trained AmeriCorps members into communities to help with the vital task of coordinating volunteer efforts as soon as possible. Speed is essential both to get the help communities desperately need for clean up and repair underway, and to maximize the public eagerness to help their fellow citizens in the aftermath of a tragedy.

Georgia’s AmeriCorps programs volunteer to participate for First Saturday. At the beginning of their program year, they designate AmeriCorps members who are capable of being First Saturday volunteer coordinators. GEMA and GCSV arrange for the training the programs and their designated members need to be effective. A First Saturday deployment is activated by GEMA after consulting with a local community in need of help and GCSV coordinates the AmeriCorps program assignments.

*For more information on Georgia’s First Saturdays please contact John Turner, GCSV, at [john.turner@dca.ga.gov](mailto:john.turner@dca.ga.gov)*

*If you have information pertaining to National Service response to Hurricane Irene or other disaster affected states please email [kdegraff@cns.gov](mailto:kdegraff@cns.gov) .*